Approval of open cast coal mining projects of Mahanadi Coalfields

3720. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to open cast coal mining projects of Mahanadi Coalfields in Orissa to intensify efforts to meet the fuel shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the per annum production capacity of these units and the areas that would be served by these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has sanctioned 3 Opencast Projects (OCP) namely Bhubneshwari, Kaniha and Kulda of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Orissa to meet the growing demand for coal.

The details of the Projects are as follows:—

Project	Coalfields/Distt	Capital investment (Rs. Crores)	Production capaicty (Million tonne per year)
Bhubneshwari	Talcher coalfield, Angul Distt.	336.00	10.00
Kaniha	Talcher Coalfield, Angul Distt.	97.00	3.5
Kulda	lb Valley Coalfield, Sundergarh Distt.	302.00	10.00

Coal from Bhubneshwari & Kaniha OCP will be supplied mainly to Talcher Super Thermal Power Station, National Thermal Power Corporation, Orissa, Coal from Kulda OCP will be supplied to thermal power Station of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation, Simhadri in addition to the sponge iron units coming up in Orissa.

Reforms in Coal sector

†3721. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal sector in the country needs wide ranging reforms;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have submitted a proposal to sell coal through bidding in open market with a view to provide coal to common man in the first phase;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the percentage of coal out of total production to be sold through such bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes Sir. An Expert Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal to draw up a road map for the coal sector.

(b) to (d) Government have approved sale of 10 million tonnes of coal through electronic auction on internet for the year 2005-06 on trial basis which constitutes 2.9% of total coal production of CIL. The quantity of 10 million tonnes will be distributed amongst CIL subsidiaries. The auction will start in all CIL subsidiaries in April/May, 2005. E-auction will be open to both consumers and traders. It is expected that with e-auction small consumers will have access to legal channel to meet their requirement of coal. Malpractices and black marketing of coal could be curbed to a substantial extent.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.